



GBM OPENS UP ON RUNNING MATE

By Thomas Mulenga
UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (GBM) says he is ready to let someone else from the Opposition Alliance become running mate as long as that person helps the alliance win the 2021 general election. And GBM says the Opposition Alliance will formally reach out to DP leader Harry Kalaba with an invitation to join the pact.
To page 7

I'll support anyone chosen from Opposition Alliance, so long we remove the criminals

Chambishi man gets 10yrs for punching wife to death

By Sandra Mulenga in Kitwe
A man of Chambishi District on the Copperbelt Province has been sentenced

to ten years imprisonment with hard labour by the Kitwe High court for Manslaughter. Musonda Chongo was charged with Manslaughter Contrary to the laws of Zambia. Allegations were that on June 14, 2018 in Chambishi District, Chongo unlawfully caused the death of his wife, Yvone Kampamba, by punching her on the forehead, following a dispute, thereby leading her to her death. *To page 7*

Theft of Social Cash Transfer report is ready, says Mvunga
Story page 7



UPND president Hakainde Hichilema interacts with voters in Katete's Milanzi Constituency yesterday



President Edgar Lungu (c) with members of the commission of inquiry into voting patterns and electoral violence after receiving their report at State House yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

Rains wash away 15 houses in Ndola's Masala Township

By Charles Tembo in Ndola
Heavy rains have washed away 15 houses in Ndola's Masala township. And seven houses in Luanshya have also collapsed due to heavy rains. *To page 7*

PF's transport infrastructure upgrades will intensify regional trade links - Mwila
Story page 2

Inflation stays at 7.9%
Story page 5

PF's transport infrastructure upgrades will intensify regional trade links - Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says infrastructure projects undertaken by the PF government such as the Kazungula Bridge have repositioned Zambia to a regional economic hub that will intensify existing trade links. Highlighting PF's achievements in their weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Mwila noted that the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) had identified "improving access to domestic, regional and international markets" as one of several development outcomes which needed to be achieved to bring about economic diversification. He observed that to improve access to domestic, regional and international markets, government had successfully implemented various programmes such as 'improved trade facilitation through transport infrastructure development programme with projects such as the soon-to-be completed Kazungula Bridge'. "In order to 'improve access to domestic, regional and international markets' as well as effectively implement the National Industrial and the National Trade Policies towards the attainment of Vision 2030, the PF government has successfully implemented various programmes and recorded notable successes. In line with the 7NDP, the PF government is improving trade facilitation by implementing the transport infrastructure development programme, with projects such as the soon-to-be completed Kazungula Bridge," Mwila explained. "The Kazungula Bridge is a key road and rail bridge crossing over the Zambezi River along the North-South Corridor, a key trade route linking the port of Durban in South Africa to the inland countries of Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, DRC, and up to Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania. The Kazungula Bridge comes to literally bridge the regional divide as well as address a gap where for years, ferries were used to cross the river." Mwila stated that the Kazungula Bridge Project, which was being championed by President Edgar Lungu, was a perfect example of how a landlocked country like Zambia could strategically be interconnected domestically and regionally for the benefit of its citizens. He stated that government was further rehabilitating Zambia Railways mainline

and revitalizing the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) with the aim of increasing operational efficiencies and reducing the cost of freight, among others. "Furthermore, the PF government is implementing the transport infrastructure development programme for improved trade facilitation by constructing the Chipata-Petauke-Serenje Railway Line, which when commissioned, will complete the link from the Port of Nacala to the existing railway lines across Zambia. In addition, the PF government has identified several strategic railway routes for development, some of which include the following: the Chingola to Jimbe (Border with Angola) route linking the existing line in Chingola through Solwezi to the border town of Jimbe," Mwila added. "The Kafue to Zawi (Zimbabwe) route will link Zambia Railway lines to Ziwa in Zimbabwe, as the shortest route to the Port of Beira in Mozambique; TAZARA Nseluka to Mpulungu Port to link Mpulungu Port to the TAZARA line at Nseluka to facilitate imports and exports from the Great Lakes region to the sea ports on the Indian Ocean; and lastly, a railway link between Zambia and Namibia (Livingstone to Sesheke), which involves the partial rehabilitation of the Mulobezi line as

well as feasibility studies for construction of a spur between Livingstone and Katima Mulilo via Kazungula that connects the Namibian Railway system as part of the Walvis Bay-Livingstone-Lusaka-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor." Mwila added that to further improve trade facilitation through transport infrastructure development, government was also upgrading strategic airports at Livingstone and Mfuwe as well as secondary

airports at Chipata and Kitwe, among others. He explained that by doing so, the PF government was increasingly enhancing the capacity of strategic and secondary airports to handle higher volumes of traffic; both passengers and cargo. Meanwhile, Mwila stated that government was also implementing the International Airport Upgrading and Construction Programme for improved trade facilitation. He stated that this would

significantly lower costs of doing business enhanced regional integration and trade and would increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to Zambia. "The full implementation of the International Airport Upgrading and Construction Programme will improve trade facilitation due to the resultant: significantly lower costs of doing business enhanced regional integration and trade, and increased FDI flows to Zambia. In this regard,

the PF government is constructing the soon-to-be completed Kenneth Kaunda International Airport and the Copperbelt Airport. Collectively, these two international airports shall enable Zambia to strengthen its economic integration and competitiveness at domestic, regional and global levels. This shall in-turn lead to economic diversification, employment creation, and acceleration of the achievement of Vision 2030," stated Mwila.



UPND president Hakainde Hichilema interacts with people of Nyimba district - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Tantameni convicted me over the same drugs she is accused of stealing, woman tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 42-year-old businesswoman has identified Lusaka-based Magistrate Maggie Tantameni as the person who sentenced her to two years' imprisonment for trafficking in the ephedrine that the latter is accused of stealing. Beatrice Saili, who resides in Lusaka West, further told the Court that her trial was conducted in a library at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court. This is the matter in which Magistrate Tantameni is jointly-charged with Felix Mkandawire, a court interpreter; Francis Mphanza, a senior public prosecutor and Didie Kangwa a senior clerk of court with three counts of abuse of authority, removal of property under lawful seizure and stealing by persons in public service. In count one, it is alleged that Tantameni and Mphanza on November 8, 2017, Lusaka, being persons employed in the public service as magistrate and senior public prosecutor respectively, jointly and whilst acting together, did use the position of their respective offices to obtain property, profit or benefit for themselves or another. In count two, it is alleged that Mkandawire, Mphanza and Kangwa on the same day, jointly and whilst acting together knowingly and with intent to hinder or defeat the process, did conceal 34.0 kilogrammes of ephedrine valued at K1,870,000. The ephedrine was taken under the process of authority of the court of Tantameni. And in the third count, it is alleged that the four

2017, in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together did steal 34.0 kilogrammes of ephedrine, property of Government of the Republic of Zambia, which came into their possession by virtue of their employment. And when the matter came up for continued trial before Magistrate Susan Mangalashi, Wednesday, Saili told the Court that she was in the business of buying clothes from South Africa for resale in Zambia. She further told the Court that she was convicted in 2017 for trafficking in ephedrine, but was pardoned last year. Saili said before her arrest in 2017, she went to India where she ordered the said ephedrine. She said upon arriving at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport on November 2, 2017, with two bags containing 34 tins of ephedrine weighing 68Kg, she was apprehended by some Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) officers. "DEC officers started searching me. They found the bags containing ephedrine. They apprehended me and got the bags and took me to their office. They got two phones, a passport and US \$300 from me," Saili narrated. She said she was taken to court five days later, but her matter was not heard because the records were not yet there. "On November 7, 2017, I was brought to Court three at the Magistrates' Court by DEC officers. The matter wasn't heard because I was told that the record was not yet here," she explained. Saili said the following day, she was taken to the library upstairs, which was a small room containing books.

Shesaid oncethere,shewasaskedwhetherthebagsand their contents belonged to her, to which she admitted. Saili added that after the judge (Magistrate Tantameni) then read the charge for her, she pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment thereafter. She said she was later taken to Lusaka female correctional facility, but was, however, pardoned a year later, on December 25, 2018. "After the judge (magistrate) had left [the room], the drugs remained there," she said. However, when the court rose to identify the said library, the witness was unable to show the Court the room in which she was taken. She said that it was upstairs but did not remember where it was exactly. In cross examination, the witness who had earlier identified Magistrate Tantameni, the interpreter and prosecutor as the people who were present during her trial, said she only met the trio the very day she was sentenced. The defence, however, wondered why she had failed to identify the library when she was able to identify the accused persons. In response, Saili said she could not fail to identify the people. She further said when she went to buy the ephedrine in India, she went with the K1,870,000 cash in a suitcase and managed to pass through the airport without encountering any problems. "Yes. I carried it in a suitcase," said Saili. Trial continues.

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By **Tenson Mkhala**

UPND president Hakaimde Hichilema has condemned violence in Lundazi and Sesheke districts, advising police to be impartial in executing their duties. And Hichilema has pledged to drill a borehole in Nchidwale ward in Katete District, whether or not UPND wins the ward in the upcoming by-election. Meanwhile, Hichilema on Wednesday asked some police officers who were trailing him whilst greeting some people in Nyimba if he needed a passport to visit Eastern Province. Speaking when he featured on a live radio program on Mphangwe FM in Katete district of Eastern Province, Wednesday, Hichilema said there was no reason for people to axe each other during elections. "Firstly, I want to say violence should not be allowed because when people start fighting, then there is lack of thinking. Violence is not good because this is a

HH condemns violence in Lundazi, Sesheke

peaceful country and so, we don't want violence. I strongly condemn this violence. What is happening in Mukombwa Ward in Lundazi and Sesheke district and even here in Katete is something which should not be accepted. Today here in Katete, if UPND youths did not behave, we were going to have violence today, here in Chindwale Ward because some known PF cadres almost attacked our youths. I want to appeal to the police to do their job and arrest those PF cadres who are spearheading violence because they are known. Imagine, UPND

have their campaign camp in Nchidwale in Chief Katumba where our candidate stays and the next thing we saw was the PF also coming to camp just near to ours. What is that? That is trying to start violence. When people start pushing and pulling each other in one direction to the other, then the people, including the police, will start reporting that the UPND is a violent party. The correct thing the PF should do is to leave our camp because there is enough place where, they can go and put up their camp. Why do they want to put their camp

on our place? PF is behaving like a party that do not want peace. If UPND was the one who did that, then we could say UPND are the ones who started the violence but now because it's the PF who followed us, the police are quite and can't arrest anyone," Hichilema said. And Hichilema pledged to drill a borehole for the people of Nchidwale ward, whether or not his party won the upcoming by-election. "The PF government has failed to put up a borehole in Nchidwale ward so that people in the area

can drink clean water. The people are drinking dirty water which animals drink also. One of our priorities, which is a small thing for me as HH, let me now tell you that, with or without winning that ward, I shall take at least one borehole to Nchidwale. With or without winning that ward, we shall put up a borehole so that people can have clean drinking water," Hichilema promised. "This is what we are going to do like we wanted to do in Lusinde ward where the PF, upon hearing that HH will put up the borehole, they blocked us. They sent police office so that they should stop us to provide clean water to the people of Lusinde ward. We want to act even before we are in government. People of Nchidwale listen, you cannot be drinking water where animals drink from. Me HH, I am donating one borehole. I will dig alone using my own machine and put up my own pump to show you just an example of what is waiting for you under the UPND government." Hichilema said the agriculture sector had collapsed due to PF's failure to think. "UPND wants to form government so that it brings development and improve the agriculture sector

which has collapsed in this country. We shall ensure that every farmer is well taken care of. We want to create jobs through agriculture. PF have failed in this sector. Schools have collapsed and orphans cannot afford to find K1,600 for school fees. As UPND, we shall take every poor child to school and people always ask me that, 'now HH where will the money come from?' We shall do away with the corruption that this government is enjoying. We shall exploit the mines here in Eastern Province and we shall give the license to the locals. I know this place has diamond and I am wondering why this government is failing to exploit it and generate money for our children to go to School. As UPND, we shall do that because we know what we are saying," Hichilema said. Meanwhile, Hichilema on Wednesday asked some police officers who were trailing him whilst greeting some people in Nyimba if he needed a passport to visit Eastern Province. Three uniformed police officers asked Hichilema's security for details of the gathering but the UPND leader approached them and asked them if he needed to have a passport for him to visit Eastern Province. "What is the problem officer? I am just greeting these people and so stop harassing these people. You want me to be obtaining a passport for me to visit this area? Please don't harass these people because I have heard that you officers do harass them," Hichilema told the officers.

ACC is toothless - NDC youths

By **Miriam Chabala**

NDC national youth chairman Charles Kabwita says it is not surprising that people have stopped reporting cases of corruption to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) because the institution has become moribund under PF. In a statement, Thursday, Kabwita noted that the Anti-Corruption Commission had failed to execute its mandate diligently as provided for by the law because of political interference. "Youth in the National Democratic Congress have received the concerns raised by the Anti-Corruption Commission, that citizens have stopped lodging complaints of corruption, with a sense of disappointment and worry. They say that even though it is very worrisome, it is expected because people know that reporting corruption in this current regime amounts to nothing as corrupt officers are protected by the State. The NDC is on record to have lodged a complaint against ministers concerning corruption and up to now nothing has come up. The complaint was lodged over a year ago, against Ministers

from Luapula namely; Nixon Chilanzwa, Ronald Chitotela, [then] Emerine Kabanshi and Dr Chitalu Chilufya at the Anti-Corruption Commission office in Kitwe. In a country where corruption is at its peak, we expected the Commission to be swift and vigilant, but due to selective application of investigation by the Commission, this has led to citizens' loss of confidence and credibility in the institution," Kabwita stated. Kabwita regretted that the ACC under the PF administration had become compromised due to influence from politicians with hidden agendas. "The Commission, under the Patriotic Front government, has

become toothless and a laughing stock. During the late President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa S.C, corrupt men and women were brought to book and the law took its course regardless of one's political affiliation. But that is not the case in this PF government. The Commission is failing to execute its required mandate diligently as provided for by an act of Parliament due to political interference by those in power. So how can people continue to report when the cases will not go anywhere," stated Kabwita. "We, therefore, appeal to the powers that be, to disconnect themselves and allow the Commission to conduct its work professionally and independently.

Today, in Zambia, cases of corruption have skyrocketed due to political influence from politicians with hidden agendas, making it difficult for the institution to carry out its obligations accordingly. The Youths in the NDC demand for a corrupt free Zambia, because we realise that development can only be achieved under men and women with integrity, honesty and a heart for mother Zambia."

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By Mirriam Chabala

Former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika has observed that the constituency based system of holding Parliamentary elections is less democratic, unrepresentative of political opinion and too expensive to run. And Dr Sacika has called for the abolishment of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) because it was initially meant to be a bribe to members of parliament and it has been highly politicized. In an interview, Dr Sacika noted that the system of holding by-elections whenever there is a vacancy in Parliament is an unnecessary drain on the country's meagre resources. Dr Sacika said Zambia needed to do away with certain systems that were initiated during the British colonial rule and adopt something more democratic and financially viable. "Our system of electing members of parliament is too expensive for nothing. Holding by-elections whenever there is a vacancy in Parliament is an unnecessary drain on the meagre resources available to the State. Zambia must grow and do away with certain systems that were given to us by the British. The constituency based Parliamentary system is not only too expensive to run but it is also less democratic and unrepresentative of a political opinion in Parliament," Dr Sacika said. "Imagine a member of parliament who is elected from a constituency with only 20 per cent of the votes cast, how can such a person claim to represent a constituency where 80 per cent of the constituency did not vote for him? My very strong appeal is that we must move away from the constituency based system of electing members of parliament and adopt a system of proportional representation, which has proved to be more democratic, successful and less expensive to run in countries where the system is in operation." Dr Sacika said the proportional representation system of electing members of parliament could do well for Zambia because it's less costly. "Under this system, there will be no need for Parliamentary by-elections because the filling of vacancies in Parliament will be

Zambia must abandon some British practices, says Dr Sacika

by nomination. Moreover, small political parties under the system of proportional representation will be able to send people to Parliament if they reach a certain threshold of political support in the country and this will enhance our democracy. Zambians should not be spending huge sums of money, like we are doing right now on a system of electing members of parliament which is very expensive. If Zambia adopted a system of proportional representation, we would cut

expenditure on elections by more than 50% and that money could go to maintaining our education and health sectors. Why are we spending K2 billion to run one parliamentary by-election? It's not making sense at all," Dr Sacika said. "So my appeal is that let us move away from the present system, let us embrace a system which is less expensive to run. The British gave us this system we are using now, but it is not the best system at all. Let us try the

other system which the German's and other people have using and let's see how it works for us." And Dr Sacika called for the abolishment of CDF. "In the ongoing Parliamentary by-elections in Sesheke, candidates are promising all sorts of things as a way of wooing the voters to vote for them. But all their promises are lies that will never be implemented, and unfortunately, even ministers have joined the queue of making promises they know they cannot

fulfill. It is time we put an end to this issue by changing the system of electing our members of parliament. Politics is not about telling lies and Zambians must tell the truth. If we reduce politics to telling lies then we are finished as a people. The job description for members of parliament is clearly stated in the constitution. Members of parliament are law makers and not supervisors of local projects in their constituencies," said Dr Sacika.

"The role of seeing to it that the roads are paved, boreholes are sunk and social amenities are provided in constituencies belongs to local councils where the voters are represented by local councilors. But what is the role of ward councilors if members of parliament are the ones attending to local projects in constituencies? The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was meant to be a bribe to members of parliament and the fund has not worked well because it has been highly politicized. The Constituency Development Fund should therefore be abolished, instead the central government should increase its statutory grant to district councils for their development projects."

It's difficult for opposition MPs to work amidst police intimidation, says Muchima

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Ikelengi UPND member of parliament Elijah Muchima says it is difficult for opposition MPs to develop their various constituencies because the PF used the police to harass them. On Monday, Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela told the Zambia Daily Mail that opposition MPs had crafted a ploy of deliberately not developing their constituencies using CDF so that the electorate can shift the blame on government for underdevelopment. But Muchima told News Diggers! in an interview that developing the country was the duty of government, through the Treasury. "Who is in charge of taking development to a constituency? Is it not the responsibility of the government? It is the government that has got the Treasury, development is associated with the Treasury. What they are doing is all the monies to the Treasury, they have kept it to themselves. They want people to start begging and yet the taxes come from everywhere, especially like in North-Western (Province), we

are the most contributors to the Treasury. Now, this PF does not even understand democracy. Democracy is taking into account different views, the opposition and the ruling, they should take a leaf from the administration of late president Mwanawasa. He never looked at a place [to say] 'no they didn't vote for me, they should vote for me,' but they are looking at that and using it to blindfold people that 'we can only take money to an area [where] unless you voted for them,' Muchima said. "What development can I even take [to my constituency] if they have kept the money to themselves? I have been a minister in MMD and were giving CDF without begging. This CDF here is through begging and you heard that we have been threatening them, even with other PF MPs and ourselves, that we will not pass the budget [and] that is why they released it. It is not even flowing like the way it used to flow in MMD. [Since] PF election, how many times have they released CDF? One thing they should be reminded is that it's not their money, they are supposed to distribute it



equally. They are selfish people!" Muchima said government expected opposition members of parliament to be begging for resources. "They want us to be begging for things, which are obvious, we can't

beg for things, which are from the Treasury, that is not governance. I think even developed countries are even laughing at them, that is why this government is broke because of poor policies, poor governance issues. Otherwise,

they are behaving as if we are in the stone age. And then if that is the case, why can't they only be collecting taxes from the areas where they were voted for? Because that is theft, they are stealing money from us, that money from North-Western is supposed to be in North-Western if that is the case. That is unacceptable! Any useful leader is not supposed to look at which is what. A good leader is supposed to spread tentacles from all areas of the country. But if you want to only concentrate from your constituency, then ask for a vote from your constituency. It's very unfortunate the way PF has taken issues in this country," he said. Muchima said it was hard to deliver, as an opposition member of parliament, amidst police intimidation. "And even for us MPs to go to our constituencies, they are using the police to arrest us! All that is barbaric, it is unacceptable, it is the leadership that is rotten, completely rotten leadership that can be using the police who are spending tax payers' money to be intimidating everyone. That is not how democracy is, they should learn from other countries, just because of the primitivity that has surrounded the PF, that is the way they are applying law only to their satisfaction. But I am telling you they will have a rude shock in 2021," said Muchima.

Zambia's copper production rises to 861,946 tonnes in 2018

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia has recorded a marginal increase in its copper production for 2018 to around 861,946 metric tonnes from 799,329 tonnes recorded in 2017, boosted by First Quantum Minerals' (FQM) operations in Kalumbila District. But last year's increased copper output still means that Zambia remains Africa's second biggest producer of the red metal, with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) expected to hit over 1.2 million metric tonnes. According to official Ministry of Mines data, Zambia's total copper production last year marginally rose to an estimated 861,946 tonnes from 799,329 tonnes recorded in 2017. The total copper production included all of the country's 10 large scale mining operations as well as small-scale mining operations, which accounted for at least

10,859 metric tonnes from the total tonnage. Data reveals that although FQM's Kansanshi Mining Plc recorded a marginal drop of 249,532 tonnes last year from 250,803 tonnes in 2017, its output in 2018 was the highest among all 10 mining companies in the country for a third successive year. Additionally, Ministry of Mines Permanent Secretary Paul Chanda explained that FQM's Sentinel Copper Mine in Kalumbila District produced record output of 223,655 metric tonnes, which helped contribute to Zambia's overall copper production increase. "The performance of the sector was better in 2018 relative to 2017. The increase in copper production is attributed to: i. The ramp up in production at Kalumbila; ii. Improved plant availability and utilization at the Tailings Leach Plant at KCM coupled with higher grades; iii. Commissioning of the Synclinorium Shaft

at Mopani in Kitwe has increased volume of ore being hoisted," Chanda explained in a statement released, Wednesday. Both Kansanshi and the Sentinel's copper output last year constitute for 473,187 tonnes out of the country's total production or nearly 55 per cent from just two operations. And 6 other mining companies equally recorded upward copper production output last year. These included: Mopani Copper Mines, whose output hit 62,191 metric tonnes from 44,860 tonnes in 2017; Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), whose output rose to 93,165 tonnes last year from 84,436 tonnes in 2017; Chibuluma Mines, who recorded 11,258 tonnes in 2018 from 10,194 tonnes in 2017; CNMC Luanshya, whose output increased to 50,363 tonnes last year from 43,206 tonnes in 2017 and Sino Metals, who

recorded 9,312 tonnes from 7,100 tonnes, while Lubambe's copper production hit 22,074 tonnes from 18,037 tonnes during the period under review respectively. On the other hand, Barrick Gold's Lumwana Copper Mine saw its output fall to 101,890 tonnes last year from 116,170 tonnes in 2017, while NFCA recorded 27,644 tonnes down from 27,706 tonnes during the period under review respectively. But Zambia's increased 2018 copper production still means that the country remains Africa's second biggest producer of the red metal, with the DRC expected to hit over 1.2 million metric tonnes. The DRC first managed to surpass Zambia as the continent's biggest copper producer after that country managed to produce over 900,000 metric tonnes of copper in 2013, registering a sharp rise and surpassing Zambia's 754,916 tonnes produced that year.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

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only met the trio the very day she was sentenced. The defence, however, wondered why she had failed to identify the library when she was able to identify the accused persons. In response, Saili said she could not fail to identify the people. She further said when she went to buy the ephedrine in India, she went with the K1,870,000 cash in a suitcase and managed to pass through the airport without encountering any problems. "Yes. I carried it in a suitcase," said Saili. Trial continues.

Siblings sue Trymore Mwenda for fraud

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Two siblings have dragged Southern Province PF publicity secretary Trymore Mwenda to court for allegedly selling his newly-built house to someone else despite collecting a down payment of over K300,000 from them. Dickson Kapuka, who is currently residing in Australia and Marcia Kapuka, are seeking a declaration that the oral contract entered between the parties is void, as well as, a sum of K320,000 which they allegedly paid to Mwenda. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Tuesday, the plaintiffs stated that Dickson wanted to purchase a house in Lusaka and he discussed his desire with his sister. "Dickson was desirous of purchasing a house in Lusaka. In view of this, he did discuss this desire with his sister, Marcia. Due to the fact that Dickson does not reside in Zambia, he asked his sister to look out for viable property on the market for him to purchase," read the statement. The plaintiffs further stated that Marcia came across an advert on Facebook of a three-bedroomed newly-built house for sale, with an

asking purchase price of K850,000. The duo stated that on inquiries made by Marcia, it was discovered that the owner was Trymore Mwenda. They stated that they entered into an oral agreement for the purchase of the house and it was agreed that in order for the title deeds to be changed into Dickson's names, Mwenda required a sum of K800,000. The plaintiffs stated that as a starting point, Dickson, through his sister in June last year, deposited some monies in the sum of K128,000 into Mwenda's bank account, while the other monies were given in cash. They stated that between June, 2018, and August, 2018, Mwenda received a total sum of K320,000 from them under an oral contract for the purchase of the house. The duo disclosed that in August last year, Marcia discovered through Facebook that Mwenda had continued to advertise the same house for sale despite Dickson already paying monies for its purchase. "Marcia immediately alerted the person advertising to take down the advert considering that Dickson had already paid monies for its purchase," read the statement of claim.

They lamented that despite their requests, the adverts were not removed, which led to them questioning Mwenda's honesty and the authenticity of their agreement. The plaintiffs stated that these doubts led them to write to Mwenda on August 18, last year, to terminate the transaction and requesting him to return the K320,000 that they had paid him. They added that they had now discovered that Mwenda had sometime in September, 2018, sold the property to someone else shortly after being advised that they would not be purchasing the property. The duo stated that they had still not received the K320,000 to-date. "The plaintiffs have given the defendant ample opportunity to resolve this matter and pay back the K320,000, but the defendant has refused or been negligent in resolving the matter and paying back the sum," read the statement of claim. They are now seeking a declaration that the oral contract entered into between the parties is void for non-compliance with the statute of frauds, the sum of K320,000 paid to Mwenda, damages for loss of use of funds, interest, costs and any other relief.

UPND govt will implement rural development policy to reduce poverty, says Mucheleka

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND deputy secretary general for politics Patrick Mucheleka says once in government, the UPND will implement a rural development policy to combat rural-poverty in Zambia. And Mucheleka says the UPND government will give defined incentives for those who may wish to invest in rural areas in order to enhance the rural economy. In UPND's weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Mucheleka

stated that the party was aware that poverty in Zambia remained a profound challenge. "In Zambia, poverty is more pronounced in the rural parts of the country. Poverty in Zambia, especially in rural areas, has the face of women and the youths who are the most afflicted, compared to men despite both living in poverty. Poverty in Zambia is, therefore, a rural phenomenon. According to the Central Statistics Office Zambia in

Figures Report published in July, 2018, the incidence of poverty was more pronounced in rural areas where 76.6 per cent of the population is classified as poor compared to 23.4 per cent of urban poverty," Mucheleka narrated. He observed that rural areas in Zambia had lagged behind in terms of development, mainly due to institutional and structural failures and lack of a rural development policy. "This situation calls for

serious reflection by all concerned stakeholders. We must all agree that successive governments have lamentably failed to implement meaningful policies, practical programmes and strategies in the sectors, which are pro-poor and rural-based. Any previous interventions in the rural sector have not had a very positive impact in as far as rural poverty reduction is concerned. Rural poverty levels still continue to be stubbornly high," Mucheleka observed. He explained that UPND would demonstrate political will towards the formulation and implementation of rural development policies whose objective would be to significantly reduce rural poverty. "A UPND alternative policy approach to combating rural poverty needs to be put in place in order to help lift out of poverty the majority of our people in the rural sector. The objective of the policy will be to positively transform the livelihoods of the rural people and reduce poverty significantly. The UPND in government will, therefore, turn round things by specifically designing

and implementing specific rural development policy," he explained. "Zambia in the safe hands of the UPND will bounce back and use implementing tools, such as the manifesto, clearly aligned development plans supported by well-defined strategies, robust monitoring and evaluation tools underpinned by our party's mission to 'accelerate national development through prudent use and management of resources for the well-being of all citizens,' including those in the rural areas of Zambia." He stated that the UPND government would demonstrate practical will to address the plight of the rural population who still continued to wallow in abject poverty. Mucheleka added that rural poverty reduction would meaningfully take place once the rural development policies were formulated and implemented. "Rural development and poverty reduction policy implementation will be supported by increased budget allocation and timely disbursement of financial resources. Policy implementation will be backed

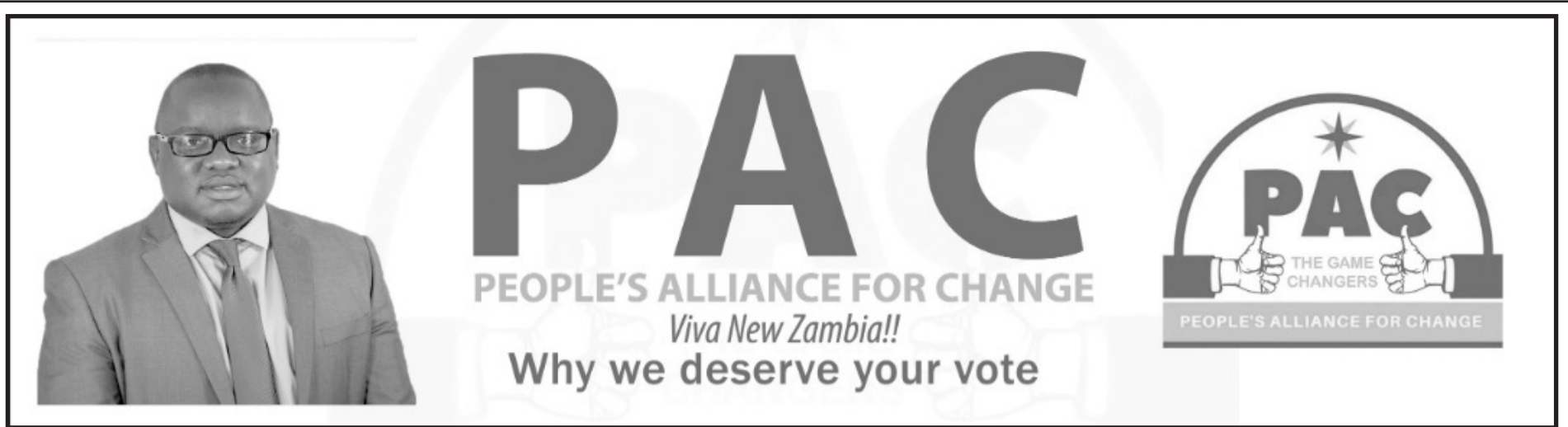
by strengthened institutional and structural capacity at all levels, including the wards and districts. This would also need to be backed by the implementation of the national decentralization policy, which apparently, was adopted in 2002 by the late president Mwanawasa's MMD but was never implemented due to lack of political will," he stated. And Mucheleka stated that the UPND government would give defined incentives for those who would wish to invest in the rural areas with a view of enhancing the rural economy. "A UPND clearly defined rural development policy will create conditions and investment necessary for creating alternative livelihood opportunities for not only the rural people, but also other players, including the private sector who will wish to invest in rural areas. The UPND in government will certainly give defined incentives for those who will wish to invest in the rural areas with a view of enhancing the rural economy. The transfer of terms of trade to the rural sector will eventually uplift the livelihoods of the rural people," stated Mucheleka.

Inflation remains at 7.9%

By Stuart Lisulo

The annual rate of inflation has remained at 7.9 per cent for January, 2019, with food and non-alcoholic beverages accounting for 4.3 per cent, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO) data. Announcing Zambia's annual rate of inflation for the month of January, CSO acting director of census and statistics Daniel Daka said food items and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 4.3 per cent, while non-food items accounted for 3.6 per cent. Daka noted that there was, however, a sharp increase in transportation in terms of the year-on-year comparison between January, 2018, and January, 2019. "The year-on-year inflation rate as measured by the all items Consumer

Price Index (CPI) for January, 2019, was recorded at 7.9 per cent. This means that This means that on average, prices of goods and services increased by 7.9 per cent between January, 2018, and January, 2019," Daka told journalists in Lusaka, Thursday. "Of the total 7.9 per cent annual inflation rate recorded in January, 2019, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 4.3 percentage points, while non-food items accounted for a total of 3.6 percentage points. Of the 3.6 percentage points, transport contributed the highest at 1.1 percentage point followed by housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels that contributed 0.8. Health; communication and; restaurant and hotels accounted for the least at 0.0 percentage points each."



Empowerment for ALL!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

From the Sunday of 10th January 2016 at Hotel Intercontinental Lusaka where the People's Alliance for Change (PAC) was launched and the subsequent interviews we have had ever since to this day on various forums, the words empowerment and employment do not depart from our mouths. Our purpose and mission is beyond just ascending to the helm of the ladder of power. We endeavor to demonstrate that selfless and dedicated leadership can achieve a lot not just for our generation but also for generations to come. There should be one persistent question that should always beg an answer from all those seeking leadership; and that question is, "How can I contribute to the transformation of people's lives especially the most disadvantaged in my community or country?"

We have seen people sweating during elections campaigning for any of the strong political parties not because they believe in the ideologies of that party but because they want to monopolize contracts once their preferred candidate or party wins elections. This is so because there is no system that fairly allocates opportunities from the government to the people of Zambia. And there is no structured support base for those that want to venture into entrepreneurship. Once this is sorted, our politics will change because no one individual will be able to take advantage of the system and in the end they will start supporting a political party based on the ideologies not based on what is in it for them.

Owing to the lack of systems or a will to empower our own, we have seen simple projects such as building of a school being contracted to foreign-based companies when we have skills that can deliver once they are structured as per the new CEEC under PAC. Our bricklayers have built mansions in Chalala, Silverest, New Kasama, Lilayi and yet cannot be entrusted to build a simple block of class rooms. Our carpenters have made various sophisticated home and office furniture and yet cannot be entrusted to make simple desks for a school for pupils to sit on. Our welders, or fabricators- as they like to refer to themselves, have fabricated complicated metal sculptures and yet cannot be trusted to make traces and roof a simple school. Our people are suffering while working for foreigners and making blocks and yet have not been entrusted or empowered to make blocks for our schools.

While we understand that most of our block makers, welders or fabricators, bricklayers or carpenters may not have professional business skills, there are millions of youths with various qualifications without any jobs. Hence, we want everyone to be empowered. That's where we will create what we are calling a Joint Citizen Company. As we explained in the Higer Bus

article, a Joint Citizen Company or abbreviated as JCC, is an organisation where citizens with various skill-sets and diverse professional backgrounds come together to form a company to pursue a particular opportunity and effectively run a business. It is an organisation that is exclusively run by its shareholders. This means that all employees/workers of a JCC are the owners. The idea behind a JCC is to come up with a structured organisation that will have different skills necessarily to run a business and also to deliver goods and services in the same manner as any other company.

As we go, we shall keep reminding our followers the key role of a restructured CEEC under PAC. Under the PAC government as already alluded to in earlier discourses, the new CEEC will focus more on ensuring that businesses grow through:

1. Structuring of start-ups and restructuring of existing SMEs wanting loans.
2. Providing basic business administration training tailored to the needs of various sectors.
3. Creating opportunities through various partners from government and private sector.
4. Facilitating financing opportunities for the opportunities created from partner banks and financial institutions.
5. Monitoring of businesses under CEEC. "

In this example, we are talking about empowering a group of people to be contracted to build schools for the government. Hence the CEEC will structure the JCCs and ensure that needed skills are placed on those structures such as accountants, human resource, welders, bricklayers, project managers, store men, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, architects etc. Through a competitive process and as per the CEEC's mandate to structure JCCs, it will ensure that deserving individuals are selected to run the businesses with various skill-sets and various experiences. Training will be conducted by CEEC to provide rules of engagement, targets and basic business administration skills to everyone. The CEEC will be a broker for opportunities between the JCCs and the government. The CEEC will also facilitate necessary financing and support accessed from various partners including banks. Once everything is set up, the CEEC will keep monitoring to ensure the business is running as per set standards.

Block making JCCs will be contracted to provide blocks to the School Contractor JCCs. In each case, professionals will be co-opted to run departments such as finance, human resource, supply chain, quantity surveyors etc. Other JCCs will be contracted to supply other JCCs. The idea behind this is to ensure money circulates within and among our people.

As PAC, our firm belief as already alluded to in our earlier article titled 'Zambia needs an ENTREPRENEURIAL GOVERNMENT', a government led by people with diverse ideas working in unison is what the country needs. This is in contrast to the current style of fire-fighting leadership that is void of planning and implementation. PAC is poised to deliver unprecedented results through the introduction of an ENTREPRENEURIAL GOVERNMENT driven by a fresh crop of new generation politicians. We believe this can only be achieved through an entrepreneurial ecosystem that has a solid support base supported by current thinking, policy and goodwill.

We have emphasized time and again that all non-special skill government contracts will be exclusively shared among numerous Zambians. This is in a quest to break current systems that are designed to support a few individuals as opposed to supporting the majority of Zambians. A contract that would make one individual wealthy can actually make 100 people significantly improve their lives. This is also in an effort to ensure that the Zambian-buying population is boosted and subsequently spurs a chain reaction of waking up sleeping industries.

The People's Alliance for Change (PAC) is here to transform our country Zambia and transform the lives of many Zambians. This can only be done if we create opportunities for all as opposed to monopolising opportunities as is the case currently with the PF government. We did indicate in our article on Higer Buses where we provided alternatives on how we would have managed the project under the PAC's JCC program. We said that the project had failed because the PF were empowering cadres as opposed to empowering majority Zambians. Even though we may have been insulted by the Minister of Sports and Youth development Moses Mawere who used a derogatory remark referring to us as dogs by the use of the term 'barking', we shall not relent to call for the empowerment of the majority of Zambians. Yes we insist here again many empowerment projects have failed because of the PF's appetite for empowering cadres. In additional, the idea of the PF or any political party in power of empowering a targeted few cadres is for selfish and greedy reasons. This is just for them to be guaranteed of a certain constituency's support of their continued stay in power. The PAC government will change this narrative.

Andyford Mayele Banda
President
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

By Mirriam Chabala

Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet in charge of finance and economic affairs Christopher Mvunga has revealed that the forensic report on the alleged abuse of the Social Cash Transfer by the Ministry of Community Development has been finalized. And State House Spokesperson Amos Chanda says those who are still waiting for the national dialogue process to take place from a "cozy room" in some expensive tower must know that the process is currently ongoing and all citizens are being engaged. Speaking to journalists at State House, Thursday, Mvunga disclosed that the forensic report on the administrative inquiry had been submitted to Cabinet Office and Secretary to the Treasury, and that the two offices were in the process of studying it to fully understand its contents. Mvunga said stakeholders, who

Theft of Social Cash Transfer report ready, says Mvunga

had been funding the Social Cash Transfer scheme, would be engaged later on after the report is studied to discuss the way forward. "I think we've been inundated with queries around what's happening around the forensic audit for the Social Cash Transfer on Zampost and Ministry of Community Development. Where we are, currently, is that the forensic report has been finalized; it was submitted to Cabinet Office and Secretary to the Treasury on 29th of January. We are now in the process of studying that report so that we fully understand what the implications are. After we finish studying that report, as you are aware, we have got cooperating partners who are key stakeholders in this whole process of funding this whole Social Cash Transfer," Mvunga explained.

"So, we will be arranging a meeting with cooperating partners in mid-February to avail them the report, we will go through the report with them, hand over the report to them and then discuss with them the way forward with regards to continuing running the programme. So, that's where we are at the moment. The report has been concluded, so there is no more speculation that there is further work happening." And Chanda said people should no longer wait for a dialogue process to take place at some expensive boardroom because the process was currently ongoing. "The President met senior citizens, led by senior citizen Sikota Wina. They came to have an open conversation with him,

particularly on key national themes of the economy, the need for unity of the country, the mining sector processes and particularly the new mining tax regime. They are in full support of government's bold steps to reform the mine tax systems and they are urging the President to ensure that the Zambian people benefit from the mining sector, using the expertise of Mr Francis Kaunda, one of the best and brightest in that area. He outlined the difficulties that the mining sector has faced, pre-colonial, colonial period, up to now and he has offered himself to government from the President down to give some insights about how the tax reform can move forward, how Zambia can

maximise its benefits from the mining sector," Chanda narrated. "Mr Sikota Wina insisted that no one has the right to undermine national coercion and politics can be practised within the civil bounds of dictates of a democracy. So, he's encouraging the President and thanking him for the efforts he has undertaken since he assumed Office of the President to run the country; he has called for stability across the board. In short, Mr Sikota is calling for continuous dialogue between and among political players. Intra-party dialogue and inter-party dialogue and the focus for him is patriotism. He says the tribalism that nearly destroyed the country during their time must not be allowed to come and

undermine national cohesion." Meanwhile, Chanda insisted that the national dialogue process was currently ongoing. "The President made a response that this is the kind of dialogue he wants. When you talk about national dialogue, they don't see it in the specks of opposition party X. The national dialogue cascades across all trade unions, student movements, senior citizens like them. So, the President continues with national dialogue. So, if you are waiting for national dialogue on a high board store, in high court towers, you must know that dialogue is taking place. We are talking to students, we are talking to citizens, this is the type of national dialogue across the board," insisted Chanda

Chambishi man gets 10yrs for punching wife to death

By Sandra Mulenga

A man of Chambishi District on the Copperbelt Province has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment with hard labour by the Kitwe High court for Manslaughter. Musonda Chongo was charged with Manslaughter Contrary to the laws of Zambia. Allegations were that on June 14, 2018 in Chambishi District, Chongo unlawfully caused the death of his wife, Yvone Kampamba, by punching her on the forehead, following a domestic dispute, thereby leading her to her death. Appearing for plea before judge Timothy Katankwa, the accused person pleaded guilty to the offence of Manslaughter.

Judge Katankwa said in sentencing him that the accused person was supposed to be the wife's protector and was expected to show love to her and not beating her. The judge said it was unfortunate that GBV cases were still on rise, adding that there was need to impose sentences that would deter would be offenders. He Katankwa said upon the the accused person's own admission of the offence and facts being true and correct he had found him guilty of the offence and was convicting him accordingly. In mitigation, the accused person begged for the courts leniency, saying he had learnt his lesson. But the judge went ahead to mete out a 10-year sentence.



Minister of National Development Planning Alexander Chiteme meeting Climate Investment Funds' Head Mafalda Duarte. With him is Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) National Coordinator Chitembo Kawimbe Chunga at the CIF meetings in Ouarzazate, Morocco on 29 January 2019. Photo | Chibaula D. Silwamba | MNDP

I can let someone else be running mate - GBM

By Thomas Mulenga

UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (GBM) says he is ready to let someone else from the Opposition Alliance become running mate as long as that person helps the alliance win the 2021 general election. And GBM says the Opposition Alliance will formally reach out to Democratic Party (DP) president Harry Kalaba with an invitation to join the pact. GBM said this in an interview when he was asked if he would be okay with someone else standing as UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema's running mate in 2021. "My dear, let me tell you, with time, if that is the situation that would prevail at that particular time, we'll do that, as long as that person will be able to see us win and form government so that we oust these criminals, these PF criminals, I am ready to support," GBM said. "I wouldn't like to spend more time talking about the alliance, but what I can tell you is that the friendship that we are enjoying with other political parties is very solid and it will be a waste of time to comment on something that I think is water under the bridge, and we have moved on I think, that issue has already been buried." And GBM said the Opposition Alliance would reach out to Kalaba and formally invite him to join the alliance. "As far as I am concerned as GBM, in my personal view, I think

that's the right decision that Hon Kalaba has made (not to challenge his expulsion from PF), so that he can concentrate on mobilizing his party, we wish him all the best. With our alliance partners, we will reach out to him because we want to bring more opposition political parties on board because we mean well; we are not trying to be selfish as some people have accused us that UPND is selfish. We are convinced as opposition political parties that we have to unite in order to fight the ills of the PF and ensure that we secure space for ourselves to conduct our political activities freely, ensure that the playing field for elections is levelled, that the law such as the Public Order Act is applied fairly and that human rights are respected in our country," GBM explained. He said only the opposition could rescue Zambians from extreme poverty. "The high levels of poverty, which the PF led government itself does not seem to have an answer to, the Zambian people should only have hope in the UPND; we are the only saviour and we shall be the only saviour for this country because we are men of integrity, majority of us in the UPND are men and women of integrity. We will not go into government and start to milk money that belongs to Zambians. Look at how Zambians are suffering, has Edgar come up with any solution?

Has he disclosed any game plan that 'countrymen and women, sooner than later we'll come out of these economic problems?' He has never done that because he is a 'Chimbwi no plan!' GBM said. "The entire government I will tell you, they do not even know whether they are going backwards or forward, they don't know! They don't even understand what governance is. Now some of us tend to agree with what Edgar himself said that he has no vision and it's true, it has come to pass and people have come to realise that what he said

was true. He was only forced by a few selfish men and women who were at that time who said: 'no boss, just go for it' because they wanted to use him to amass wealth, which they have done, but I hope they will enjoy it. Because people are suffering and they are complaining and when people are complaining, you won't have the blessings of the Almighty." GBM, the former Kasama Central PF member of parliament and defence minister, also said the Zambia Centre for Inter Party Dialogue (ZCID) needed to be abolished.

"I think the dialogue process will succeed because the Church has the full backing of the alliance. And let me tell you, ZCID does not mean well to the Zambian people. ZCID is here to bring confusion or even to prolong the dialogue process. So, I think Zambians should not trust ZCID whatsoever! The Church has succeeded in bringing unity in the country on so many occasions, the Church has actually single-handedly managed to deal with similar processes in facilitating dialogue and reconciliation without the involvement of

ZCID, how then can ZCID say the Church cannot succeed in bringing unity in this country? ZCID, I will tell you, is up to no good. If I had a way, as GBM, I would do away with ZCID. In fact, I would not even want ZCID to even interfere in what the Church is doing. My dear young man, when you have a problem in a home, where do you run to? I run to the Church, now if somebody can say that the Church is not the right place, is not the right 'Shibukombe' then what kind of thinking is that? That's foolish and stupid!" said GBM.

Rains wash away 15 houses in Ndola's Masala township

By Daniel Chansa

Heavy rains have washed away 15 houses in Ndola's Masala township. And seven houses in Luanshya have also collapsed due to heavy rains. Copperbelt has been experiencing heavy rains in the past five days, leaving a trail of destruction. Ndola District Commissioner George Chisulo said 57 other houses are badly damaged. Chisulo who visited the affected families yesterday said quick action has been taken by government to help mitigate the crisis. "It is sad that 57 houses of kafubu ward in

masala that have been greatly affected by the heavy rains. However, let me say that though bad the situation, it is known to government and quick action was underway. So fifteen small houses were swept away due to the heavy rains," Chisulo said. He has since assured the residents of Masala that government would look into the matter soon. And Kafubu ward councillor Francis Kazembe disclosed that the major problem that caused the damages was the blockage of the stream from the industrial area to Kafubu river. Kazembe has asked government to

work on the stream as soon as possible in order for the problem to be solved. Meanwhile, seven houses in Luanshya have collapsed due to heavy rains. Luanshya Mayor Nathan Chanda who visited the affected families described the situation as a disaster. "This is a disaster and as your Mayor and Servant I will do my best to see that you our people are helped. So I will help with cement, and bricks so that we help you come up with temporary shelter. This is a disaster! Its a serious disaster. Our people need help," said Chanda.

Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says he will pay the fine slapped on former Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) president Kalusha Bwalya, who was found guilty by FIFA of accepting a bribe. This, he says, he will do because he is a devoted soccer fan and he wants the celebrated football legend to get over the trouble and focus on the game.

To be clear to those who have not followed this matter, Mr Kalusha was found guilty of receiving about US \$80,000 bribe from an Asian businessman who wanted to be voted FIFA president.

As punishment, the Zambian soccer icon was ordered to pay about US \$100, 000 and was further handed a restraining order from all football activities. Upon hearing his appeal, FIFA has upheld the conviction, but reduced the ban from about two years to nine months, and also reduced the fine to about US\$10,000.

This is what has excited Honourable Lusambo to the extent that he is willing to part away with K120 million (old currency) just to demonstrate his happiness – even when he knows that Great Kalu is expected to have, several times, more money than him.

“To demonstrate my happiness, I pledge to pay the 10,000 Swiss Franc (K120,000) fine that the FIFA Appeals Committee has imposed on Kalusha. The gesture does not in any way seek to cast aspersions on Kalusha’s ability to pay the fine, but it is a small attempt at thanking Kalusha for the many

The corrupt link between Kalusha and Mr Lusambo



Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
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years of great service to Zambia,” said Mr Lusambo, the millionaire philanthropist.

“I should state clearly here that the funds to honour my pledge to pay the fine on behalf of Kalusha will be fully funded from my personal resources and will be made in my capacity as a football fan.”

To start with, where is the money coming from? Mr Lusambo was not a successful businessman before he was appointed a provincial minister. In fact, we recall that shortly after taking office, he attempted to portray himself as a charitable saint by announcing a media scholarship fund from his own pockets. A group of Copperbelt journalists were duped into believing him, and they enrolled in one of the big universities, only to be abandoned after being sponsored for one semester.

People should not be fooled! This minister’s pocket does not have this kind of money that he is

flaunting to the public. So, where is it coming from? It’s from corruption. Without the ministerial office, Mr Lusambo has nothing more than a humble livelihood. This man is simply trying to gain all the political mileage from any given situation, and in so doing; he is going too far in abusing his office for personal interests.

We have nothing against Great Kalu or those who are sympathizing with him. We can’t take away anything from the accolades that this son of the soil has brought to the country. All we have is respect plus admiration for him, and that’s why we are able to refer to him as “Great Kalu”. A statue of him, together with those who perished in the Gabon air disaster, would not be a bad idea around one of the stadiums – as a way of appreciating their sacrifice to Zambia.

We can add that, if football stakeholders want Mr Kalusha to return as president of the Football Association of Zambia, let

them do so, knowing very well the character of the man they will be voting back in power. Whatever the case, his corruption cannot be cleansed by his successor’s poor performance at the helm of the soccer governing body.

Corruption has got nothing to do with how great Mr Kalusha is. In fact, the greater you are, the further you should be from the vice. It doesn’t matter whether it’s in politics or in sports; corruption must be exposed, condemned and fought.

Our concern is that the minister is very eager to bail out a corruption convict, without any counsel to Mr Kalusha over the bribe that got him in the troubled position. Is it because he thinks the man is innocent? No, it’s because he thinks corruption can be silenced with money. He lives in a world where someone can pay their way out of corruption scandals. Mr Lusambo and Mr Kalusha do not detest corruption,

they are beneficiaries.

That is the corruption link that exists between the minister and the soccer legend. It is for that reason that, instead of directing that token of appreciation towards globally-renowned referee Janny Sikazwe, who has been acquitted of any corrupt practices, Mr Lusambo has chosen to pay a fine on behalf of a rich Pamodzi Hotel resident, whose conviction has been upheld by the FIFA Appeals Committee.

Ironically, this is the same minister who lambasted and humiliated police officers whom he found receiving tuma K20 bribes from motorists in Matero. He said the government of the “great leader of this great country” does not tolerate any form of corruption. Today, he is financing corruption and defending a corruption deal that involves close to a million kwacha. Zambians must also remember that this is the same minister who accidentally recorded himself discussing

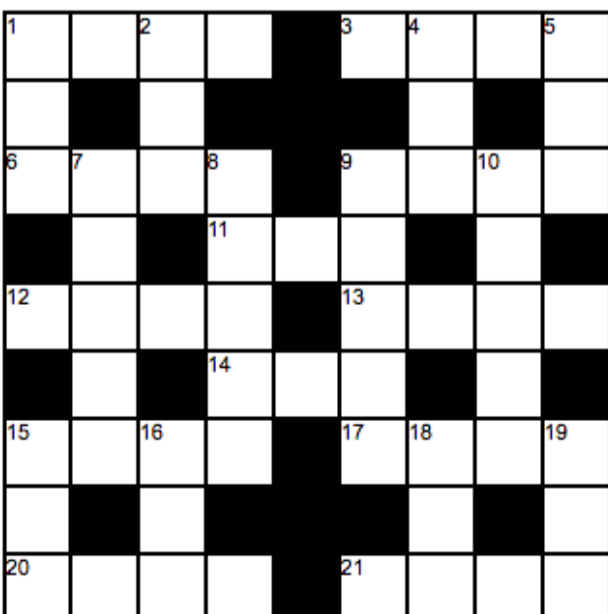
corruption with some Chinese contractors in his office.

In the face of all this hypocrisy, some Zambians are still clapping for the minister, branding him an anti-corruption hero. This ties in perfectly with the editorial comment we published on Wednesday, to the effect that those charged with the responsibility of fighting corruption are pursuing petty thieves, while abetting grand corruption.

Great Kalu is a Zambian, living in the same city that houses the Anti-Corruption Commission. It’s four years since the football legend was accused of committing the crime, but our Anti-Corruption Commission is still silent, despite gathering the facts in the matter. Is it because they have not found anything on him? No, even a fool can tell that there was no way the ACC was going to prosecute a public figure who has been vigorously campaigning for the Republican President. If they tried, they were going to get a call from State House.

Then you hear the Anti-Corruption Commission boss saying: “we don’t understand why Zambians have stopped reporting corruption cases to us.” They can’t investigate Lusambo, they can’t prosecute Kalusha, which corruption do they want people to report? This is an insult to the intelligence of citizens. Sometimes the heads of these institutions must learn to just eat with those in power and shut up, the “bla bla bla” is annoying!

Crossword puzzle 284



“The struggles we endure today will be the ‘good old days’ we laugh about tomorrow.”

- Aaron Lauritsen

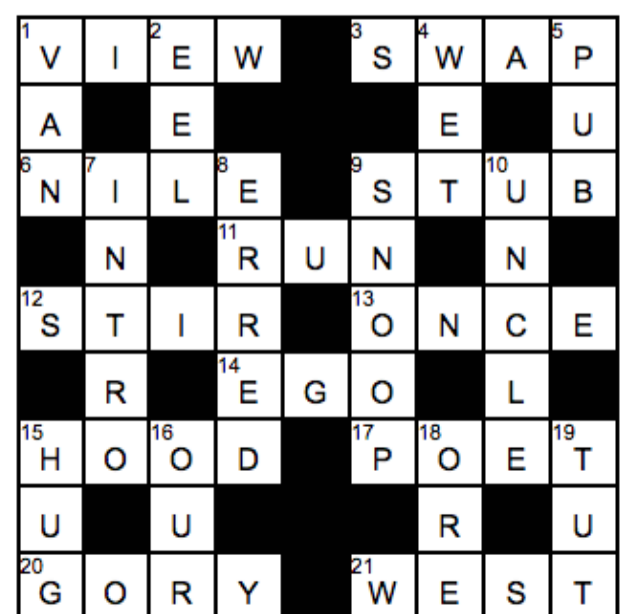
Across

- 1. Military installation
- 3. Pallid
- 6. Picket line crosser
- 9. Make reference to
- 11. Employ
- 12. Bitter
- 13. Shipshape
- 14. Use it to catch butterflies
- 15. Hissy fit
- 17. Tool house
- 20. Doe or buck
- 21. Moved quickly

Down

- 1. City vehicle
- 2. Ocean
- 4. Boxer: Muhammad ____
- 5. The night before an event
- 7. Jack broke it
- 8. Charred
- 9. Dollars and ____
- 10. Make fun of
- 15. Unhappy
- 16. ____ got a feeling
- 18. Jump on one foot
- 19. Misfire

Solutions to puzzle 283



Reader's feedback

Mwale's explanation on council salaries, electronic payment upgrades in markets

Editor,

"Central government interference with the functionalities of local councils must stop! Let councils take back full control of running municipalities, build property, rent it out, and engage in other investment activities without central govt interfering!" - Anthony Bwalya

"Another disaster!!! How old was Minister Mwale when Sata adopted all council employees directly on govt payroll!!!? - Robby LM

"Whether electronic or not, for as long as they are in the markets, cadres will collect money. What they do is extortion. So, he can pay to the Council then cadre will also collect his money, threatening to bundle out those not obliging!" - Caristo Mwango
 "Rolling out electronic systems of collecting revenue in markets and bus stations is welcome, but it definitely won't get rid of cadres. Why not just call them out according to the

party they CLEARLY belong to. The only solution is for their party leadership to simply command them to stop collecting money, which we all know is not going to happen because cadres clearly have more power!" - Flávio Kalunga Chipakula

"But ba PF, you have taken bus stations and markets they are controlled and run by your cadres; where do you expect Council to get their revenues?" - Dominic Makarie Chipalila Mulenga



'Kambwili should just focus on building NDC, not fixing PF'

Editor,

"Vengeful, don't be bitter! Move on and build NDC." - Steven Kaoma

"Everyone in Zambia is simply enjoying

comrade KK and his comrades' sweat. At least we can even remember FTJ the late because he opened it for all to speak on national issues, even to insult for those who love insults!" - Alfred Ntuntu

"It's too late for Kambwili to complain now; dictator Edgar Lungu and his mentor Rupiah Banda are in full control of the PF party and government. After Michael Sata's death, Rupiah Banda infiltrated the PF party and helped Lungu to enter State House in 2015. Had Kambwili and the likes of Kelvin Bwalya Fube (KBF), Harry Kalaba and other disciples of Michael Sata been men of honour, they would have prevented a failed lawyer called Edgar Lungu from becoming PF party president. Kambwili should just join those struggling for regime change in order to restore democratic rule." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"The politicians of these days they form their party before they become fully equipped, they are just half-baked with 50 cadres from the streets, saying 'I will stand as the President.' We need humble leaders with the heart of love." - Philip Mfunne

"CK, resign from PF and stop crying like a baby! You can't eat with two hands!" - Humphrey Kabwe

Diggers' OPINION: Ba Sichalwe; mwashuleni

Editor,

"Indeed, I agree with the News Diggers! Hon. Lawrence Sichalwe, the Minister of Traditional Affairs, is just displaying our national affairs that Hon. Rev. Godfridah Sumaili presides over. It is most probable 50% of Cabinet Ministers shared the video." - Christopher Kalima

"Well said, ND! This law regarding the circulation of pornographic material is, to say the least, archaic. Minister or no Minister, these materials are easily accessible and the courts would have to jail almost all Zambians who own phones with video capacity if they searched their phones. This incident just mirrored what Zambian society is like." - Mushika Simukama

"Like ND! have done, I think it is high time Zambian tax payers demanded to know the relevance of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. This Ministry has an added responsibility of inculcating moral behaviour in citizens. Is it doing that, or it is just milking over-taxed Zambians?" - Mike Phiri

HRC's findings that police should face criminal charges for causing Vespers' death

Dear Editor,

"Justice for the late Vespers must prevail!" - Tryson Simule

"The report is simply saying there is no leadership in Zambia. Allowing such brutality means instructions were coming from very high and above ministry. So, you Christians for nothing must review your support for this PF criminal govt. It is sad indeed." - Martin Nama

"Cadres in uniform caused her death. Unfortunately, I don't see justice being done because those who killed her are protected by those in power. We are under a repressive regime who abuse the police to clamp down on dissent. Vespers didn't deserve to die like that, no one deserves to die needlessly at the hands

of those who should have protected her." - Bashi Chabota Jay Kalikenka

"Grenades? Unbelievable cruelty!" - Steven M Mwalusi

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

Beyoncé and Jay-Z are giving away concert tickets for life to vegans

Beyoncé and Jay-Z have launched a competition that gives fans a chance to win a lifetime of concert tickets if they commit to a vegan diet.

The giveaway is in partnership with Beyoncé's personal trainer Marco Borges, who launched the 22-Days Nutrition Greenprint Project, and is open to all fans willing to implement at least a partially vegan meal plan into their everyday life.

For example, participants can engage in a fully vegan diet, commit to "Meatless Mondays" or consume two plant-based meals a day to qualify.

To enter the competition, fans simply need to submit their details to the Greenprint Project website. Then one grand prize winner will be selected at

random from all eligible entries received around 22 May 2019.

According to the competition rules, the lucky winner will be given access to a pair of tickets to one official scheduled tour concert during each official scheduled tour by Beyoncé and/or Jay-Z in the US, for the winner's life, up to a maximum of 30 years.

The couple announced the competition on their Instagram accounts. While Beyoncé vowed to have plant-based breakfasts and take part in Meatless Mondays, Jay-Z revealed he is pledging to eat two plant-based meals a day.

The couple have spoken openly about their decision to adopt a plant-based diet in recent years. Earlier this month, the Carters

wrote the introduction for Borges' book, *The Greenprint: Plant-Based Diet, Best Body, Better World*, explaining why they chose to implement veganism into their diets.

"Having children has changed our lives more than anything else," they wrote.

"We used to think of health as a diet – some worked for us, some didn't. Once we looked at health as the truth, instead of a diet, it became a mission for us to share that truth and lifestyle with as many people as possible."

"We all have a responsibility to stand up for our health and the health of the planet. Let's take this stand together. Let's spread the truth. Let's make this mission a movement. Let's become 'the Greenprint.'" *INDEPENDENT*



Social media companies should have a legal "duty of care" to children, the UK Parliament's Science and Technology Committee has recommended. The group's report said social media had helped facilitate bullying and online grooming of children.

It called for a regulator to be established to take "enforcement action" if apps broke the law.

A number of privacy and data scandals have led to calls for social media companies to be regulated.

Facebook's new vice-president Sir Nick Clegg has already pledged to do "whatever it takes" to make the company's platforms safer for young people.

Sir Nick was responding to the case of 14-year-old Molly Russell, who took her own life after viewing distressing self-harm images on Instagram in 2017.

Her father said he believed Facebook-owned Instagram was partly responsible for his daughter's death.

The committee has been looking at the effect of social media and so-called screen time on the health of children. During its inquiry, it surveyed more than 3,000 young people. It said social media had positive attributes, but also led to:

- damaged sleep patterns
- body image issues
- bullying
- online grooming
- sexting

It said these risks had existed before social media, but the popularity of apps had helped "facilitate" problems, especially child abuse.

The report, titled *Impact of Social Media and Screen-Use on Young People's Health*, was released on Thursday.

It was produced by a cross-party group of MPs including Liberal Democrat Norman Lamb, Conservative Damien Moore, Labour's Liz Kendall and the SNP's Carol Monaghan.

The report said social media companies should have a formal legal duty of care to their users.

It suggested:

establishing a regulator to minimise the harms of social media and take enforcement action

Regulate social media to protect children, UK MPs urge



making sure rules and policies are consistent across video-sharing sites, social networks and search engines

a new partnership between the government, tech companies and law enforcement to tackle

child exploitation online

Despite the Cambridge Analytica data scandal, in which a university researcher gave the Facebook data of millions of people to a political consultancy, the report

also said social networks should share more data with researchers.

It argued that this could help websites identify those at risk and improve safety measures.

The government is expected to

publish a White Paper about online harms in the coming months, and the committee urged it to use this as an opportunity to act.

The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) said it

"welcomed" the report. Its director of external affairs, Duncan Stephenson, gave evidence to the committee.

He said in a statement: "We fully support the select committee calls to help researchers and others to better understand the long-term effects... to our wellbeing."

On Wednesday, England's Children's Commissioner, Anne Longfield, published her own open letter calling on social media firms to take more responsibility for protecting children from disturbing content.

She urged them to back a legal duty of care obligation, and finance a digital ombudsman to act as an independent party between young people and the tech giants.

Andy Burrows, from the children's charity NSPCC, said in a statement: "For far too long social networks have been allowed to operate in a Wild West environment and put children at unacceptable risk."

"The government now has a crucial opportunity to set out a comprehensive plan to protect children online."

"This must include an independent statutory regulator with enforcement powers, that can impose strong sanctions on platforms that fail to keep children safe." *BBC*

'Cocktail' approach offers early hope for new male contraceptive

The research is in its early days, but Chinese scientists say they're using bartenders' tricks to stir up a new, reversible male contraceptive.

In experiments with rats, the method successfully kept sexually active males from impregnating females for more than two months.

"The two most widely used male contraceptives are condom and vasectomy," noted a team led by Xiaolei Wang, of Nanchang University. "A reliable and reversible medium-term [2 to 20 weeks] contraceptive method between the one-off condom and permanent contraception is urgently needed."

Their potential solution was inspired by the colourful layered cocktails often concocted by bartenders. In these

mixes, liquids form distinct layers in a glass. But when stirred or heated, the layers combine into a uniform liquid.

Promising, but a long way to go So, Wang's group developed a form of male contraception in which layers of materials are injected into the vas deferens - the duct through which sperm travels from the testicle to the urethra - to block it.

The blockage continues until heat applied to the blocked area causes the layers to mix, breaking them down and thereby unplugging the vas deferens.

The Chinese group say they tested this method in male rats by injecting four layers of materials into the vas deferens. In sequence, the injected layers were: a hydrogel that forms

a physical barrier to sperm; gold nanoparticles that heat up when irradiated with near-infrared light; ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), a chemical that breaks down the hydrogel and also kills sperm; and one more layer of gold nanoparticles. While in place, the liquid layers in the vas deferens prevented the male rats from impregnating females for more than 2 months, Wang's team reported Jan 30 in the journal *ACS Nano*.

But when the researchers shone a near-infrared lamp on the male rats for a few minutes, the layers mixed and dissolved, and the male rats were once again able to impregnate females. This offers "an effective and reversible manner to fill the gap of current medium-term contraceptive

strategy" for men, the team said.

But, "though our method is promising, there is still a long way to go for practical practice," the Chinese team said. "More animal experiments are needed to verify the safety of materials," they said, and results in animals often fail to pan out in people. One fertility expert in the United States agreed that much more study is needed.

"This study is a very preliminary look at injectable male contraception," said Dr Mary Rausch, of Northwell Health Fertility in Manhasset, New York. "Though this has a long way to go before it would be ready for trial or certainly use in humans, it would be a medical breakthrough if it did come to fruition." *NEWS24*

U23 needs improvement-Musonda

By Abraham Kalito.

Under 23 assistant coach Bilton Musonda has admitted that there is a lot of improvement needed before the national side can take on Malawi on March 20th in the Egypt 2019 AFCON qualifier. Musonda who had camped with the players on Sunday, broke camp yesterday to allow the players to report to their respective

clubs in preparation for super league matches. He told News Diggers yesterday that there is a lot that needed to be done before the March 20th game in Blantyre. Musonda however expressed delight with how the team had trained in the first camp thus far. "Right now, we broke camp yesterday (Wednesday), but we will be in camp again on

Sunday, we are regrouping on Sunday evening. So far, the first camp was ok. The training was fair. This is just the beginning. And definitely there is a lot that

we need to improve on and as we gather again on Sunday, and start training on Monday, I'm sure we will keep on getting better. There are a number of things that

we need to look at and we will go through all those as we continue camping. But I can talk to you more after the second camp," he said. Zambia will take on Malawi

in Blantyre on 20th March before meeting the young flames four days later to launch a campaign to qualify for the finals in Egypt later this year.

Lumwana Radiants on verge of losing a point for playing without ID cards

By Abraham Kalito

Lumwana Radiants FC is on the verge of losing their had earned point after it was discovered that the team played without registration cards in the 2-2 all draw against Nkana on Wednesday. Goal Diggers! understands that the Super division side still do not have their cards as they are at the football house. Goal Diggers! further understands that Nkana FC has since logged an official complaint against their super league opponents. Sources who spoke on conditions of anonymity said Nkana are likely to be awarded all the three points plus three goals if the complaint is heard by the FAZ ethics or disciplinary committee. "Lumwana may lose the point from the 2-2 all draw against Nkana. Yes, it's true that some players did not have cards. And as per rule, the match was not supposed to take place if a single player either on the bench or the starting eleven did not have a card. We are not sure how the match officials decided to go ahead and officiate without those special requirements. But if this is properly heard, the Nkana might be awarded the three points," a source revealed.



Barcelona's Sergi Roberto celebrates with Messi after scoring his sides 4th goal in the Copa Del Rey against Sevilla on Wednesday evening. Barcelona won 6-1 after losing 2-0 in the first leg

'I have not received any offers'- Conte

The Italian has been without a job since leaving Chelsea last summer, and attended a Coppa Italia tie between two of his former clubs on Wednesday. Antonio Conte has denied reports he is on the verge of returning to management after being spotted at the meeting of two of his former clubs Atalanta and Juventus on Wednesday night. The 49-year-old has been linked with both AC Milan and Inter in recent weeks,

and was also rumoured to be Real Madrid's No.1 target to succeed Julen Lopetegui earlier this campaign. However, Conte claimed he is unlikely to return the management arena anytime soon, having left his post at Chelsea last summer. "I miss the pitch," he admitted to Sky Italia, "but I decided to take the rest of this year off and I'm looking forward to a new destination, which of course we do not know. "I came from London to

Milan to watch the Juventus match, but I have not received any offers from Italy." The latest news could be taken as a sign that Conte is still interested in the Real Madrid job. Prior to Santiago Solari's appointment, he was believed to be in the frame for the job, and with Los Blancos' record for hiring and firing managers, there are no guarantees the Argentine will be there at the start of next season. Conte began his managerial career with Arezzo in 2006,

before moving to Bari, whom he helped gain promotion to Serie A. After spells with Atalanta and Siena, the Italian was given the Juventus job in 2011. Conte had represented the Old Lady as a player for 13 years, making over 400 appearances and winning 13 major honours in Turin. His second spell at the club proved just as successful and he guided them to three consecutive league titles between 2012-2014. **GOAL**

Higuain offers no quick fix to Sarri's problems

The striker didn't manage a single shot on his top-flight debut but he was not to blame for Wednesday's embarrassing 4-0 loss at Bournemouth

It was a midweek round of shocks in the Premier League, with only two of the top six recording victories, the cold and snow seemingly freezing limbs in sluggish outings for Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United and Manchester City.

In the circumstances, Liverpool fans can feel relieved to have extended their lead at the top of the table to five points.

On frozen winter days like these, it is often the old-school tactics – the sort invented for mud-soaked pitches – that work best.

Bournemouth thoroughly deserved their victory over Chelsea on Wednesday night despite holding just 32 per cent possession.

This was the perfect opposition for a team that loves to counter-attack, as a lacklustre, uncomfortable looking Chelsea allowed their sluggishness in the final third to infect their



defensive concentration.

It was quite incredible how often Eddie Howe's side broke behind David Luiz and Antonio Rudiger, with the full-backs nowhere to be seen.

Bournemouth's breaks betrayed the static nature of Chelsea's formation; a more fluent side in attack would have controlled the transitions

considerably better.

Eden Hazard and Pedro both struggled to create chances in the opposition penalty area, primarily because the movement around them was so minimal that Bournemouth could simply hold their ground.

Attention will be drawn to Gonzalo Higuain's quiet Premier League debut: 64 minutes and zero shots

on goal.

But the suggestion that his arrival would end Chelsea's goal drought was always missing the point, since what the club lack is the structural elasticity needed to create opportunities for a central striker. Higuain doesn't stand a chance while the midfield remains a case of square pegs in round holes. **GOAL**

'Liverpool can handle title pressure' - Barnes

The former Reds star considers a midweek draw with Leicester to be "a point gained" and is expecting many more twists and turns to come Liverpool can "handle the pressure" of a Premier League title race, says John Barnes, with "the Jurgen Klopp factor" set to be key as they chase down a first crown in 29 years. The Reds remain in control of their own destiny as they seek to bring an end to a wait for top-flight glory which has spanned almost three decades. They currently hold a five-point lead at the summit, although Liverpool missed the chance to pull seven clear on Wednesday after playing out a 1-1 draw at home to Leicester. It has been suggested that a stalemate at Anfield, which came 24 hours after defending champions Manchester City

suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Newcastle, showed signs of nerves.

However Barnes, who won two titles with Liverpool in his playing days, does not agree. He considers the result against the Foxes to be "a point gained" and expects many more twists and turns to be taken in over the coming weeks.

The Reds legend told talkSPORT: "It's not all doom and gloom.

"It was great opportunity to go seven points clear, but we've added another point.

"It's only January and teams, including Liverpool and Manchester City, will drop more points. We're not going to have another situation like last year where City went so far ahead of everybody else and didn't drop points. **GOAL**

RADIANTS FACE FAZ SANCTIONS

...for fielding unregistered players

By Abraham Kalito

Lumwana Radiants FC is on the verge of losing their had earned point after it was discovered that the team played without registration cards in the 2-2 all draw against Nkana on Wednesday. *To page 11*



Sevilla hammering shows Barca want to win all three titles - Messi

Lionel Messi believes Barcelona showed their appetite for the Copa del Rey by blowing away Sevilla 6-1 on Thursday to pull off a brilliant comeback and book their place in the semi-finals. Sevilla had won the first leg 2-0 but their lead was wiped out within 31 minutes at the Camp Nou, after Philippe Coutinho scored a penalty, deferred to him by Messi, before Ivan Rakitic poked in a second. Ever Banega had squandered the chance to level for Sevilla by missing his own spot-kick and Barca ran riot in the second

half. Coutinho headed in his second and Sergi Roberto added a fourth, only for Guilherme Arana to give Sevilla brief hope. Luis Suarez and Messi wrapped up an emphatic victory late on, the latter after a superb counter-attacking move. Some had suggested Barcelona would be relieved to exit the Copa del Rey to focus fully on La Liga and the Champions League but Messi said their display had silenced the doubters. "It was said that we had given up in the

cup, that we didn't want it," Messi said afterwards. "But in no way is this the case. This team wants to fight for all three titles, as is the obligation of Barca every year." Coutinho's form has wavered in recent weeks but his double could do wonders for confidence. Barcelona, meanwhile, are no strangers to these sort of revivals but against Sevilla, who sit fourth in La Liga and have been one of their closest challengers this season, it was particularly impressive. *AFP*

Spain reopens inquiry Abidal's transplant



Spanish authorities have re-opened a probe into ex-Barcelona player Eric Abidal's 2012 liver transplant after confirming that new evidence suggested a trafficked organ was used, according to a legal decision seen by AFP on Wednesday. The courts have previously looked into Abidal's transplant because of doubts about the identity of the donor. Seven years ago Abidal, playing at the time for Barcelona and France, had received a transplant as he battled liver cancer. In the decision, seen by AFP on Wednesday, a Barcelona judge found "it had been proved that there was new evidence against those investigated, so that the case can be reopened." The Spanish prosecutor initially reopened investigations after Spanish media published tapes of the former Barca president, Sandro Rosell, suggesting that the club had illegally bought a liver for their defender. Abidal, who is now Barcelona's sporting director, says his cousin Gerard Armand, who lives in France, was the donor. The latter said he had not received anything, "not a centime", in exchange. *AFP*

